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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-sixth session
Item 10 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT

THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF DETAINEES

Note verbale dated 10 May 1994 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Centre for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva presents its compliments to the Centre for Human Rights and, further to our letter N.94/127, dated 2 May 1994, has the honour to enclose a copy of the press release issued by the Permanent Mission of Iraq on 3 May 1994, concerning a statement made by the speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Mr. Sa'adi Mahdi Saleh, on 17 April 1994.

The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly expressed the readiness of the Iraqi National Assembly to receive a delegation from the Kuwaiti Parliament to discuss the issue of the so-called detaining of people from Kuwait in Iraq.

The Permanent Mission of Iraq would appreciate if this press release could be communicated to the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

PRESS RELEASE

The Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Mr. Sa'adi Mahdi Saleh, made on 17 April 1994 a statement in reply to the address made by Sheikh Sa'ad Abdulla Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait, in which he stated that "The world has become like a big volcano, in which nobody knows when and where it may erupt. The small states stand terrified at this awful scene. They seek a shelter that would protect them from the devastating storms and where they can maintain their freedom and sovereignty and protect their entity and independence", in which the Speaker expressed the readiness of the Iraqi National Assembly to receive a delegation from the Kuwaiti Parliament to discuss all outstanding issues in such a manner that would serve the Arab cause and the interests of both sides, and to give this delegation full access to all information and facts which would confirm the invalidity of the allegation that Iraq is still detaining people from Kuwait.

In order to emphasize the earnestness of the Iraqi position, the Speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly reaffirmed that, "Iraq has no objection to the participation of Arab parties, to be agreed upon, in this search. Iraq also has no objection for an Arab authority to undertake shuttle contacts between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Kuwaiti Parliament in order to arrive at a mature basic view in this direction and in order not to allow Kuwaiti Government officials to push matters to the worse, as they had previously done before 2 August 1990.

Instead of studying and considering the Iraqi initiative by the Kuwaiti side, it was rejected in a hurried and indeliberate manner through the statement issued by the Kuwaiti Parliament. They did not even make an effort to study its contents, which merit due attention, with a view to closing the past chapter and begin a new one where understanding prevails and to solving problems in a manner acceptable to all parties for the realization of stability in our area. The Kuwaiti reaction can be clearly seen in the text of the parliamentary statement, reading "this call cannot be considered but a mockery aiming to create dissension between brothers and friends. It is a sly trap in which Kuwait and its people will not be caught".

The statement of the Kuwaiti Parliament made irresponsible and unobjective remarks concerning Iraq, as if Kuwait were the party that determines the destiny of Iraq and its people. This negative response by Kuwait to the true and earnest wish by the Iraqi National Assembly to find a solution to the outstanding problems between the two parties, brings back to mind what happened prior to 2 August 1990 through the obduracy of Kuwait in refusing to resort to dialogue and pushing matters to the extent that took place, aiming once more at insisting on the pursuance of a course that persists in maintaining the tense situation that fails to serve the interests of the two parties.

Iraq, proceeding from its keenness to acquaint the Arab and world opinion with the Iraqi position, deems it vitally important to record the facts to history.